SCENIC ROUTE FROM CARCASSONNE AIRPORT

If your flight arrives into Carcassonne in the morning and, rather than follow the scenic routes below, you may like to visit the medieval walled "La Cité". Simply follow signs for Centre Ville and then La Cité (around 15 mins from the airport).

When you leave La Cité, follow signs back to Centre Ville and pick up signs to Mazamet on the D118. Conversely, Carcassonne is a 45 min drive from La Villa is you wished to undertake this visit as part of a daytrip or, if you have an afternoon flight, a visit on your return to the airport.

THE ROUTE

From the car rental carpark, you will exit onto a main roundabout, take the direction towards Carcassonne "Centre Ville" and you will pass back in front the airport itself – continue until you reach another main roundabout and take the third exit, signed "Autres Directions" D6161. Continue on this until you reach a large roundabout (you will see the supermarket & fuel station "L. Leclerc" on your left) – take the third exit signed for Pezens onto the D6113 (If you are feeling hungry at this point, there's a very nice restaurant in the village of Pezens, L'Ambrosia)

Continue on this road for a few kilometers and keep an eye out for a right hand turn shortly after you pass Pezens, this will be the **D629 and signed for Montolieu** which is a village with a number of antique book shops, park and have a wander around (from the airport, this village is approximate 20 km and should take 25 mins).

Leave Montolieu, continue on the D629, heading for Saissac (less than 10 mins drive). As you enter the village of Saissac you will see a view point on your left where you can park. On a clear day you may see the snow-capped peaks of the Pyrenees in the distance and, directly below, the medieval village of Saissac and its Cathar chateau. You can walk down the steep street to view the remains of the chateau. There is a small tourist information on the right, shortly after the viewing point, which will have further information on the opening hours of the chateau.



At this point, should you wish to go directly to Mazamet; leave Saissac, turn onto the D103 (you will need to turn around and head back in the direction you came from for a short while until the left hand turn to the D103) – after you pass through the village of Saint Denis it may become the D62 (very typical in France for road numbers to change!) – you will then keep heading for Cuxac Cabardes where you will pick up the main road to Mazamet D118 turning left onto this road and following the directions (as if coming from Carcassonne) on our website which we suggest printing and bringing with you. Download here

For an extended scenic route (around 1 hour more): Leave Saissac, continue onto

the D629 in the direction of Revel & Cammazes for around 15 mins (12 km) and you will reach the small village of Cammazes. If you have not already had your lunch, or just wanted something lighter, a great place to visit is *Le Salon du Vauban* which you will see on your right as you enter the village. Food is served here from 11.30am until 6pm and is all organic and made by the owner Monique on the premises.

After Cammazes, continue on the D629 and after 10 mins you will see a large lake on your left, this is actually the reservoir "Lac St. Ferréol" which feeds into the Canal du Midi. If you have time, a circular walk (which is mostly on the level) will take one hour and fifteen minutes; if you don't fancy the walk, you have the choice of stopping in the market town of Revel (which is just five minutes further along the route) or continuing directly onto Mazamet.

You will pick up the road D622 as you enter the town of Revel and then follow signs in the direction of Castres & Mazamet for 15 minutes (15 km) until you read the village of Soual. In the centre of the village, you will see a right hand turn to Mazamet on the D621, follow the directions from our website from the third paragraph under the Calais/Paris section. From Soual to Mazamet is approx 30 mins (25 km).

